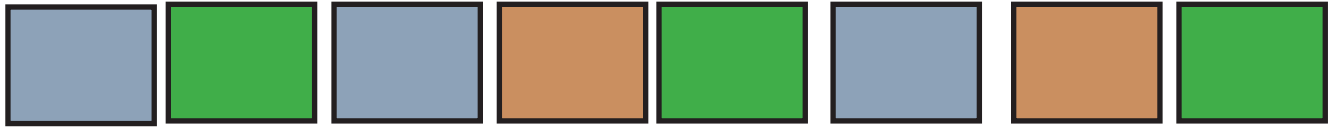


## INSIDER

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## Answers Get Easier with New Education Data Warehouse

You may not know what a data warehouse is yet, but it is going to make your work life easier and more efficient. A data warehouse is simply a large database that consolidates information from separate databases into one location. This new centralized resource means retrieving information, and using it for sophisticated reporting, is becoming infinitely simpler for state and local education employees.

Tennessee's data warehouse will be live and in use this fall by state-level staff and nine local pilot school systems, including Tennessee's four largest districts. It will allow district administrators unprecedented capabilities to consider student, school and district-level data in decision-making.

This initial phase allows standard reporting in five areas: assessment, discipline, truancy, exit status and attendance data. One sample report will show truancy rate by school, district and student subgroup. Another report will show TCAP proficiency rates by district and school disaggregated by student ethnicity.

Who has access? State users will have access to all data statewide. Districts will have access to their own data down to the individual student level. Local administrators will also be able to view the data of other districts except student-specific data.

***Did you know Tennessee was one of 14 states, out of 45, funded to develop a data warehouse?***

State employees who have completed training gained access in mid-August. Staff in the nine pilot districts who have completed training will have access this fall. Districts statewide should have access by the end of the year.

The warehouse eventually will offer greatly expanded reporting and the capability to create customized reports. The next subjects to be integrated will include areas like teacher, course enrollment and special education data.

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Assistant Commissioner Susan Bunch reads 'The Story of Ferdinand' to first grade students at Brookmeade Elementary School in Nashville as part of *Read for the Record* day. This event seeks to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood literacy. To learn more, visit [www.readfortherecord.org](http://www.readfortherecord.org).

## Project Edison: *Edison Self-Service*

A new web-based tool is going to give all state employees the capability to manage many work functions online from any location. Edison Self-Service gives employees the power to:

- view/edit personal data including benefits information, contact details, W-4
- manage contributions to 401K, 457 and Roth 401K
- divide direct deposit payments into as many as three different accounts
- log time and request leave, as well as view leave balance and pay stub for up to sixteen months

All of these functions can be conducted online beginning in 2008.

Employees will have ample opportunity to complete training on how to use Edison Self-Service, as well as register for additional training in the future. Training sessions begin in November 2007. Individuals who have completed training will be able to practice using the system before it goes live in mid-December.

The launch of Edison Self-Service during the holiday season does mean employees will need to plan ahead when requesting leave. To learn more about training, visit <http://intranet.state.tn.us/erp/traininginfo.html>.

This is an exciting step forward for Tennessee government in making operations more efficient. Stay tuned for future updates on Project Edison.



A 2007 Governor's School for the Arts student shows off her work-in-progress. Applications for all Governor's Schools are online at [www.state.tn.us/education/govschools](http://www.state.tn.us/education/govschools).

### Tennessee Home to 24 Percent of Nation's 'Districts of Excellence'

Perry County is the latest Tennessee school system to achieve District of Excellence in Child Nutrition status according to the national School Nutrition Association.

Twenty Tennessee districts have earned this honor, among only 82 districts in the nation. To view a complete list, visit [www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org).

These districts have demonstrated superior performance in providing a healthy school environment and teaching students healthy nutrition habits, as evidenced by having exceeded national best practice standards.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

### Nobody Tells Us Anything!

The Department is pleased to offer two new tools intended to improve communication with local education agencies, lawmakers, students, parents and the general public.

Automatic notifications via email or RSS Feed can now alert site visitors when new information is posted to the Department's Education News Center. Posts might include public notice information, department updates, press releases and newsletters.

You must subscribe to participate on the Education News Center page at <http://info.tnanytime.org/t DOE/>.

- To receive email notification, enter the preferred email address in the box under E-mail updates on the right side of the page. You have the option to unsubscribe each time you are notified of a posting.
- To register for RSS Feed, click on the orange button labeled 'Get News Feed.'

**What is RSS Feed?** RSS feed publishes frequently-updated digital content to a designated web site, such as a "My Yahoo" web page. Subscribing to the RSS feed posts updates automatically to that page as they are released on the Education News Center page.

**What is the Education News Center?** Our news center is home to all current department news.

These services are available to any member of the public, so please help us spread the word!



**Tennessee Diploma Project:** The State Board of Education will approve new academic standards and corresponding assessments for math and reading in 2008. The department will begin training educators and administrators on the standards in the summer of 2008 and new assessments will be administered during the 2009-10 school year.

**Pre-K classes:** The department will again ask for additional dollars to open even more pre-K classrooms. The hope is that Tennessee will move closer to serving all at-risk four-year-olds who wish to participate and may begin offering its quality pre-K program to more families.

**Accountability:** The offices of accountability and local finance have trained local districts in how to track the spending of BEP 2.0 dollars and show how the new funding is being used to improve student achievement. The Office of Accountability also has a greater presence this year in districts with schools that have been on the high priority list the longest.

## Fifteen Tennessee Districts Rated Among Elite by Parents

Fifteen Tennessee school systems have earned the 'What Parents Want' award based on a survey conducted by national education research firm SchoolMatch.

The criteria for the award is based on feedback from parents and homebuyers about what parents look for in a school system. SchoolMatch conducts educational audits to see how closely school systems across the nation meet the desired qualifications.

The criteria includes academic competitiveness; accreditation; recognition by the USDE; competitive teacher salaries; above-average expenditures on instruction and library/media services; and smaller class sizes.

SchoolMatch recognized the following Tennessee school systems this year:

- Bristol City Schools
- Cleveland City Schools
- Hamilton County Schools
- Johnson City Schools
- Kingsport City Schools
- Knox County Schools
- Maryville City Schools
- Montgomery County Schools
- Oak Ridge City Schools
- Putnam County Schools
- Rutherford County Schools
- Shelby County Schools
- Sumner County Schools
- Tullahoma City Schools
- Williamson County Schools

# *Tennessee Goes Smoke-Free*

On October 1, the Non-Smokers Protection Act became effective throughout Tennessee. This new state law bans smoking in enclosed public places and places of employment. The goal of the law is to protect Tennesseans from the potentially deadly effects of secondhand smoke.

While there are a few exceptions written into the law, smoking will now be prohibited in most facilities that are open to the public in Tennessee. These establishments include, but are not limited to:

- Restaurants
- Public and private schools
- Health care facilities
- Hotels and motels
- Retail stores and shopping malls
- Convenience and grocery stores
- Sports arenas, including enclosed public areas in outdoor arenas
- Restrooms, lobbies, reception areas, hallways and other common areas of buildings
- Child care and adult day care facilities

The law provides for owners and operators of certain facilities to continue to allow smoking if they choose to do so. Examples include:

- Bars or other businesses that only admit people 21 years of age and older (including both patrons and employees)
- Non-enclosed areas of public places, including open air patios, porches or decks, so long as smoke from these areas does not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited
- Smoking rooms in hotels and motels (up to 25% of a hotel or motel's rooms may be designated as smoking rooms)
- Businesses with three or fewer employees, but only in an enclosed room not accessible to the public and

where smoke from such a room does not infiltrate public areas

- Private clubs
- Private homes and residences, except those used for child care or day care

To comply with the law, employers and business owners are required to post "No Smoking" signs at every entrance; to notify and inform all existing and prospective employees that smoking is prohibited; and inform patrons and customers who are found smoking on the premises that it is against the law.

Both businesses and individuals who fail to abide by the law face penalties. An individual who smokes in area where smoking is prohibited is subject to a \$50 fine. A business that knowingly fails to comply with the law is subject to a written warning for a first violation in a 12 month period; a fine of \$100 for a second violation in a 12 month period; and a penalty of \$500 for a third or subsequent violation in a 12 month period.

The Department of Health and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development are charged with enforcement of the new law. Each department will be responsible for enforcing the smoking ban in facilities it regulates. Officials from these departments will monitor compliance during regular inspections of facilities, and will investigate complaints of violations as needed.

Complaints about violations of the Non-Smokers Protection Act may be filed online, by written form, or by calling toll-free 1-800-293-8228 starting October 1, 2007.

More information on the Non-Smokers Protection Act is available on the Department of Health Web site at <http://health.state.tn.us/smokefreetennessee/>.